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STAFF NOTES:

Soviet Union Eastern Europe

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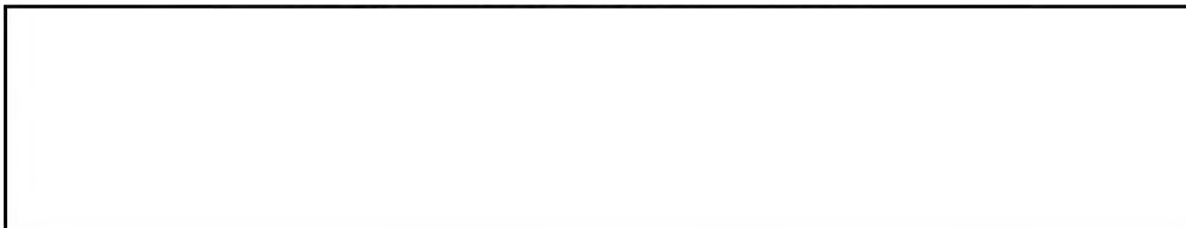
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SOVIET UNION - EASTERN EUROPE



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The Way It Is: Suslov to the US Senators

The language was reasonably restrained, but the message was still clear: The US is not doing the USSR any favor in supporting detente; both countries must have it to survive in the modern world. The ideological doyen of the Kremlin, Mikhail Suslov, did not shrink from the task of telling the 14-man US senatorial contingent now in the USSR that, in effect, it is the USSR, not the US, which has reason to complain about the state of the relationship.

Suslov was uncommonly explicit, even repetitive, in arguing that the most important reason for the development of US-Soviet relations is to remove the danger of nuclear war. He did some lobbying on behalf of the Vladivostok agreements, telling the Senators that the agreements were "remarkable" because they provided for quantitative limitations on strategic weapons and the first steps to limit them qualitatively. He said the agreements were "particularly important" because they called for a continuous joint effort to limit arms. He made sure that the Senators understood that new talks on further limitations and possible reductions would begin "long before" the "now-prepared" (SALT II, presumably) agreement, which expires in 1985. Whether or not Suslov believes a SALT II agreement is literally "now-prepared," his implication that it is in the bag could be intended to get the Senators to exert pressure to resolve the remaining differences.

Picking up a refrain that has considerable currency in the Soviet media and in the statements of other leaders, Suslov said the arms race is continuing apace despite the restraints that are now on the books. He criticized the expanding US military

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[redacted]

budget, and referred to a Soviet proposal for the reduction of military budgets to draw an invidious comparison between the USSR and the West on disarmament matters. He sharpened the point by stating explicitly that the relaxation of international tension cannot be consolidated without "consistent arms reduction."

On a more general point, Suslov repeated a theme expounded by Brezhnev in his election speech last month, saying the "impression is growing here" that the "enemies of detente" have stepped up their activities in the US. He rejected the notion of keeping score on who gains the most from detente and, like Brezhnev, scoffed at the idea that negative remarks about detente were sometimes made for domestic political reasons. The Soviets probably are genuinely concerned about the political strength of what they regard as anti-detente forces in the US, but Suslov's message seems to be that the US should not look to Moscow to make concessions to propitiate these forces of darkness.

Suslov was bound to say something about US-USSR trade, given his audience, but he left the subject for last and hewed closely to the standard Soviet line that trade benefits both sides and cannot be linked to the internal affairs of the USSR. He argued that the USSR could trade with other nations and would successfully develop its economy in any event. He pointed out, however, that the development of Soviet-US economic relations is an important element in improving political relations. [redacted]

[redacted]

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Kardelj's Travels

Edvard Kardelj, Yugoslavia's top theoretician, has completed visits to Hungary and Czechoslovakia and is currently in Romania for what appears to be more consultations on the next stage of preparations for the European Communist conference.

Kardelj has talked with the top party leaders of each country on a wide range of topics, including development of the Communist movement. He has probably reiterated Belgrade's insistence that the documents for the conference abstain from criticism of individual parties and avoid programmatic statements that would bind the parties to a given course of action. The working group that is drafting the conference documents was to reconvene yesterday in East Berlin.

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Poland Eyes US Commercial Aircraft

Warsaw is considering purchases of US commercial aircraft for Poland's national airline, which is currently an exclusively Soviet-built fleet. McDonnell Douglas has offered two DC 9-50s; a Boeing proposal covers an unspecified number of 727s. France and the UK are also likely to enter the sales competition. French prospects could be helped by the favorable credits extended to Poland during President Giscard's visit in mid-June.

Any sale of Western aircraft to Poland would further undermine Soviet efforts to expand aviation exports and may spur similar interest from other East European countries, particularly Czechoslovakia and Hungary. In the past, the Soviets have had a near-monopoly on sales of civil aircraft to the Warsaw Pact countries. The East European airlines, however, have grown increasingly dissatisfied with their Soviet-built fleets because of shortages of spare parts, overhaul problems, and inefficient engines. Because of these problems, a US manufacturer was able to penetrate the market in the spring of 1973 when Romania purchased three Boeing 707s.

Poland needs additional medium-range jet aircraft to compete effectively on the lucrative routes between Warsaw and Western Europe. Although service on the Polish airline's 21,000-mile network is centered in Europe, it extends from the Middle East to the Western Hemisphere. Poland's current inventory includes 8 antiquated medium-range IL-18 turboprops, 10 TU-134 medium-range trijets, and 5 IL-72 long-range four-engine jets used on the Warsaw - New York service.

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CHRONOLOGY

June 24

Premiers of CEMA member states convene in Budapest for a three-day, annual meeting. Soviet Premier Kosygin delivers a keynote address. [REDACTED]

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An Israeli Communist party delegation headed by Politburo member Tubi arrives in Romania. [REDACTED]

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The 31-nation Geneva disarmament conference, co-chaired by the US and the USSR, convenes for its summer session. [REDACTED]

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Yugoslav President Tito confers with former West German chancellor Brandt, who is visiting Belgrade for two days. [REDACTED]

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US frigate Wainwright concludes a five-day, official port call at Constanta, Romania. [REDACTED]

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Tass accuses Portuguese Socialists of a "crudely fabricated provocation" in providing a Paris newspaper with a document purportedly conveying Soviet instructions to West European Communist parties. [REDACTED]

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GDR informs the US that it is prepared to begin the second round of negotiations on a bilateral consular convention the week of July 21 in East Berlin. [REDACTED]

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June 25

Border accident talks between the GDR and West Berlin end inconclusively. The next round is scheduled for July. [REDACTED]

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June 25

Hungarian Premier Lazar confers with visiting Soviet Premier Kosygin in Budapest. [REDACTED]

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Soviet Party Secretary Boris Ponomarev returns to Moscow after a six-day stay in Syria. [REDACTED]

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The Soviet Union and a number of East European states establish diplomatic relations with Mozambique on its independence day. [REDACTED]

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Belgian King Baudouin and Queen Fabiola conclude their stay in Moscow; Prime Minister Tindemans and Foreign Minister Van Elslande return to Brussels. [REDACTED]

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East German Foreign Minister Fischer concludes a three-day, official visit to Denmark. [REDACTED]

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Danish Communist party leader Jespersen begins a three-day, official visit to East Germany. [REDACTED]

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June 26

Soviet Premier Kosygin meets with Romanian Premier Manescu during the CEMA ministerial in Budapest. [REDACTED]

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Chinese military delegation returns to Peking from an official visit to Romania. [REDACTED]

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Polish party chief Gierek confers with East German Politburo member Tisch, in Warsaw for an official visit. [REDACTED]

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June 26

Gabon's President Bongo concludes a four-day, state visit to Romania where he met with party-state leader Ceausescu. [REDACTED]

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Hungarian Foreign Minister Pujá concludes a four-day, official visit to Kuwait. [REDACTED]

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June 27

Romanian Minister of Foreign Trade Patan ends a two-day visit to Zaire. [REDACTED]

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East Germany and Switzerland sign a long-term economic cooperation agreement. [REDACTED]

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Bulgarian party leader Zhivkov concludes a five-day visit to Italy, where he had talks with President Leone, Prime Minister Moro, Pope Paul VI, and Italian Communist party officials; he then begins a two-day visit to Algeria. [REDACTED]

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Exiled Soviet author Solzhenitsyn begins a five-day visit to Washington D. C. [REDACTED]

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June 28

Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko ends a two-day, official visit to Italy where he had talks with government officials, Pope Paul, and Communist party chief Berlinguer. [REDACTED]

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June 29

A US congressional delegation headed by Senators Humphrey and Scott arrives in Moscow for an official visit; the delegation meets with Politburo member Suslov on June 30. [REDACTED]

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June 29

Romanian Party Secretary Dobu, en route home from Mozambique independence celebrations, stops in Lisbon and meets with Portuguese chief of staff General Fabiao. [REDACTED]

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June 30

Yugoslav Presidium member Edvard Kardelj--one of Tito's closest advisers--arrives in Romania at the invitation of party/state chief Ceausescu. [REDACTED]

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Polish President Jablonski, on his way to Mongolia, stops in Moscow and meets with Soviet President Podgorny. [REDACTED]

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Indonesian President Suharto begins an official visit to Yugoslavia at the invitation of President Tito. [REDACTED]

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Trinidad and Tobago's Prime Minister Eric Williams begins an eight-day, official visit to the USSR. [REDACTED]

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The Bulgarian National Assembly convenes in Sofia. [REDACTED]

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FUTURE EVENTS

July 2

SALT talks to resume in Geneva. [REDACTED]

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July 2

Greek Prime Minister Karamanlis to begin a three-day, official visit to Bulgaria. [REDACTED]

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Former West German chancellor Brandt to begin a week of official business in the USSR. [REDACTED]

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early July

Foreign Minister Gromyko expected to make an official visit to Canada.

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July 7

Trinidad-Tobago Prime Minister Williams to commence a six-day, official visit to Romania. [REDACTED]

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July 8

USSR Supreme Soviet to convene. [REDACTED]

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July 9

US and the USSR to resume bilateral talks on their Pacific Ocean fisheries problems. [REDACTED]

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July 15

Joint US-USSR Apollo-Soyuz space venture to commence. [REDACTED]

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